FBIS DAILY REPORT

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U.S. MEDIATION OF BEAGLE ISSUE MAY BE SOUGHT

PY121808Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 12 Jan--Foreign Ministry sources disclosed here last night that the Argentine Government has not discarded mediation by the United States to achieve a peaceful solution regarding the serious border issue which it has with Chile in the southern part of the continent.

Foreign Ministry sources noted moreover that the Argentine Government will launch a diplomatic offensive, with headquarters in the OAS, aimed at explaining the reasons which Argentina has for repudiating the award which it considers to be harmful to its national sovereignty. It is precisely within the OAS where a mediation for the conflict may be started. This mediation may be led by a third country, which could be the United States, thus promoting a trend of opinion within the OAS.

MASSERA VIEWS EXERCISE AS ANSWER TO CHILE

PY121642Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1225 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpt] Bahia Blanca, 12 Jan--The navy commander in chief termed the gigantic and unusual exercise along the Patagonian coast an efficient answer to the emergency which the country is experiencing. Adm Emilio Eduardo Massera, who returned yesterday to the federal capital, made this remark during a quiet and brief toast offered on board the cruiser "General Belgrano" to its outgoing commander, Capt Hugo Hector Andrade.

Without precisely indicating so, the remarks of the chief of the navy are meant to assure the population that Argentina's sovereign rights over the Atlantic under its jurisdiction and the southern region will be preserved without concessions or damaging handovers.

VIDELA, MASSERA RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES

PY121344Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The president, Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla, returned yesterday afternoon to Campo de Mayo, interrupting the period of rest he was taking in the south of the country. He arrived at the official residence of the army commander in chief at 1840. Casa Rosada sources reported that Videla will stay in Buenos Aires for 2 or 3 days and then travel to Chapadmalal where he will continue his vacation. The same sources indicated that Videla will return to Buenos Aires on 22 January and will resume his official duties on 23 January.

While the Argentine Navy continues its operations in southern Argentine waters, the navy commander in chief has returned to the federal capital. Navy sources reported that Adm Emilio Eduardo Massera returned accompanied by Vice Adm Armando Lambruschini, navy chief of staff. Both officers observed the navy exercises on board the aircraft carrier "25 de Mayo."

MINEWORKERS STAGE STRIKES IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS

PY121357Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpt] We now have a report of what has been happening at the mining districts following the last few hours of stoppages and support for all the hunger strikes in La Paz and in the south of the country. Gaston Lobaton reports directly from the south.

Good evening, this is a report for La Cruz del Sur. While the government reported on a partial stoppage in the mines, it was also learned that almost 90 percent of the mineworkers in the country accepted the 24-hour strike decreed by the miners federation to support the hunger strikers and to demand an amnesty. The Bolivian Mining Corporation [COMIBOL] reported that the labor stoppage was partial in several of its enterprises. There was, however, an official report of the 48-hour strike decreed by the workers of the Unified Potosi Mining Enterprise yesterday in demand of an unrestricted amnesty.

Press reports from the interior indicated that the workers from the tin deposits in Catavi and Siglo XX suspended 90 percent of their activities after they held a meeting within the mining area. Those same reports indicated that the miners in those deposits decided to ignore the members of the Siglo XX grassroots committee. The press reports also stated that the meetings condemned the [word indistinct] itself and demanded that an unrestricted amnesty be decided.

The mining enterprises of San Jose, Huanuni, Corocoro and others of the southeastern (?complex) also ceased their activities, according to an official report by the coordinator of the general mining union committee, (Angel ?Vargas). Those of the Oruro central mine and the Colquiri miners joined the 24-hour stoppage a little after noon, it was indicated. The measure was decided by the proscribed miners federation, whose clandestine leaders encouraged workers to support this strike movement and to demand an unrestricted amnesty, the reinstatement of the workers who were dismissed for labor reasons, free union action and the removal of the army from the mines.

According to observers, the miners' stoppage, which was accepted by the workers of various enterprises, means a virtual disregarding of the coordinators of the national mining union committee.

It was also reported that almost 90 percent of the miners of the country's private mines accepted the 24-hour stoppage. Another sector which joined the stoppage was that of the mining cooperatives, according to a report from that sector's national federation.

PEREDA RESIGNS ARMY TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT

PY121755Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY

[From the "Facetas" program]

[Text] And now let us talk about one of the prominent men who has been constantly in the news during the past few weeks; let us talk about Gen Juan Pereda Asbun, who has finally decided to request indefinite leave from the armed forces. General Pereda Asbun is requesting leave just before he intends to launch his candidacy for president on Thursday, the fourth time he has proclaimed himself a candidate for the presidency.

Facetas is able to report that General Pereda's request will be accepted by the high-ranking military command headed by Gen Hugo Banzer. It must be noted that President Banzer has stated more than once that in the 9 July presidential election he will vote for General Pereda. We can also add that General Pereda has already established his offices on (Camacho) Avenue at the headquarters of the National Unity Committee and will launch his official presidential campaign from there. Experts in political propaganda, programming and planning who will plan the future government to be lead by General Pereda will be working in this building from where, we repeat, General Pereda's candidacy will be launched.

We must note that the letter in which General Pereda requests leave from the armed forces is the only clear indication which can dispel any rumors or allegations stating that the elections will be suspended. This is the first specific disclosure that somebody is actively preparing for the 9 July, 1978 elections.

But let us review the official letter. This letter, signed by General Pereda Asbun, is addressed to Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez as commander in chief of the Bolivian Armed Forces. It is not addressed to the president because it is strictly a military affair. The letter is labeled: General Secretariat, No 72/78 and is dated: 11 January, 1978. The letter reads:

General:

Important national sectors have publicly requested me to represent them as their presidential candidate in the forthcoming general elections to be held in July, 1978. Because of the large numbers which make up these sectors and because of the important role they have played in our society, these sectors from the social basis of the country and their behavior determine the direction of our national evolution.

In view of the principles which guide my life, I believe that any demand made by the people constitutes a determinant factor for those of us who are active in society. Because of their nature, the pronouncements made by peasants, workers, professionals, businessmen, and civic entities represent the fatherland itself and, therefore, commit me more so to their service.

In view of the various factions which aspire to national leadership I believe that each Bolivian citizen must support that position corresponding to his convictions. As members of a society in search of its destiny amongst trends, pressures and interests, we are confronted with the choice of having to participate actively in the solution of those problems affecting our environment and the times in which we are living, or of turning our backs upon this reality.

In view of this challenge and on the basis of my professional training, the lessons I have learned in the armed forces and because I am a member of the most progressive trends of this society, I, therefore, reiterate my decision to continue to serve the people and their aspirations. Because of the ties which unite me to all Bolivians and after serene and patriotic reflection I have decided to accept the candidacy to the constitutional presidency for the 1978-1982 period.

I, therefore, request to you, Gen Hugo Banzer, commander of the armed forces, to grant my indefinite leave from the armed forces in accordance with the regulations in force within the armed forces.

Facetas is able to state that General Pereda's request has been accepted by Gen Hugo Banzer. It has been reported that General Banzer has already discussed this fact this morning during his usual Wednesday meeting with high-ranking armed forces officials.

Let us continue with General Pereda's letter in which he more or less discloses in general terms his platform if he is elected President.

The letter reads:

At the same time as I disclose my candidacy to the people I will also disclose a complete government plan for the next 4 years. However, due to the gratitude and respect I owe to the armed forces, I will now disclose some details of this plan.

Should I have the support of the people in the next elections, the constitutional government will continue with the institutional system of the armed forces, perfecting it constantly in relation to the people's aspirations. Ideologically, we will act within the framework of revolutionary nationalism since this is appropriate to the genuine nature of our society. We will promote the development plan started in 1971 so that the fruits of development will be justly distributed. We will strive to overcome all artificial differences to unite the people around our national objectives. The armed forces will be respected in their role as (?the defense) institution of the fatherland. General Pereda's letter ends in the following manner: With the honesty which has always guided my actions I make the irrevocable commitment that I will continue the work undertaken by Gen Hugo Banzer, who is the unquestioned leader. I promise to uphold the moral and intellectual status of the armed forces and defend the national banner with which I was entrusted at the military school. In view of this, I, therefore, have the honor to reiterate to you, General, my deepest appreciation. The sea is ours by right, to recover it is our duty.

Signed: Gen Juan Pereda Asbun, air force commander.

It must be noted that this letter has been accepted by General Banzer. But let us explain why was this request for indefinite leave has been submitted. It was submitted because the constitution states that the presidential candidate must be politically active, or at least conduct a political campaign, at this stage. We have asked some experts, who have told us that in this case articles No. 50 and 89 are to be enforced. And it seems that the official candidate is determined to follow Article No. 50 and modifications of the election law.

Article No. 50 states:

The following individuals will not be eligible for election: 1. Civilian officials or employees; 2. military and police officers on active duty; 3. and religious officials who do not resign their post at least 60 days before the date of elections. University professors and rectors are exempted from this regulation.

It must be noted that the term used in the constitution in Article No. 90 only applies to national representatives who are senators and deputies. Article No. 89, however, is more specific, since it discusses the president and vice president, and states:

Those ministers of the government or presidents of entities acting as economic or social entities directly involved with the government who have not resigned their posts 6 months before the date of elections will not be eligible to be candidates for president or vice president.

Immediate relatives, blood relatives and in-law relatives, twice removed in accordance with the civil registry, of those who are exercising the presidency or vice presidency during the last year previous to the elections are also not eligible as candidates to the presidency or vice presidency.

Also included in this exclusion are members of the armed forces on active duty, the clergy and ministers of any religious cult.

EX-COMIBOL CHIEF NAMED AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA

PY1213407Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Gen Carlos Alcoreza has been named to occupy the post of Bolivian ambassador to Argentina. This news has been obtained by Radio Fides from the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMIBOL], of which Alcoreza has been general manager since 11 May 1976.

It was confirmed that Alcoreza will be replaced in his post at the state mining enterprise by Col Enrique Vargas Guzman, who will take over the general management within the next few hours.

DEBT AMORTIZATION SEEN PROBLEM FOR 1978

PY0413067Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] High government officials have recognized that disbursements to amortize the foreign debt may cause difficulties for the economy in 1978. While stating that the national budget for 1978 is an austere as possible, Finance Minister David Blanco reported that in earlier budget years disbursements for the foreign debt have never been higher than 22 percent of the total value of our exports. The minister added that this year the disbursements might be much larger, although he did not state the percentage.

BRIEFS

NEW POLITICAL PARTY--The press reports that a new political party, called the Democratic Movement of the Left [Movimiento Democratico de Izquierda], is being formed by engineers, doctors, lawyers and other professionals and also some politicians. [Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 6 Jan 78 PY]

REGIMENTAL COMMAND CHANGE--Col (Luis Arce Gomez), former commander of the 20 Infantry Regiment, Sucre, has been appointed new public relations chief of the Bolivian army command. Col Mario Escobar, former prefect of La Paz Department, has been appointed new commander of the Sucre Regiment [Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 3 Jan 78 PY]

HOPE EXPRESSED FOR PEACEFUL BEAGLE SOLUTION

PY121759Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1715 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 12 Jan--The Brazilian Government today officially expressed its hopes that Argentina and Chile will find a peaceful solution to their conflict over the islands of the Beagle Channel. A Foreign Ministry communique states that because of its tradition and of the constitutional principles it holds, Brazil has always favored the peaceful solution of international controversies. The communique adds that Brazil trusts and hopes that a harmonious solution will be found to this conflict.

MAGALHAES PINTO SELECTS GOMES AS RUNNING MATE

PY121635Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 12 Jan--Senator Magalhaes Pinto, a civilian candidate for the presidency of Brazil, announced here today that his running mate as vice president will be former industry and commerce minister Severo Gomes. Gomes resigned last February, apparently at the request of President Geisel in view of Gomes' opposition to the government's economic policy.

PETROBRAS RELEASES 1977 OIL PRODUCTION FIGURES

PY121459Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Jan 78 p 19 PY

[Text] PETROBRAS reported yesterday that the total production of petroleum, including liquid natural gas, has decreased by 3.48 percent in 1977 compared with 1976. While in 1977 the production was 9,636,895 cubic meters (60,741,868 barrels), in 1976 the production was (10,005,685 cubic meters (62,935,758 barrels).

The largest production of oil was in December, 1977, 840,566 cubic meters (5,287,097 barrels), which is a daily average of 170, 553 barrels. This represented an increase of almost 5 percent compared with November, when 801,068 cubic meters (5,038,178 barrels) were produced. PETROBRAS also reported that in 1977 the continental shelf showed good results. Oil production in the sea totaled 2,227,488 cubic meters (14,010,899 barrels), representing an 18 percent increase over 1976, when 1,891,375 cubic meters (11,896,479 barrels) were produced.

This peak production in December, 1977, was the result of exploitation of land and undersea oil deposits. The implementation of secondary recovery methods increased land deposits production by 5.3 percent from 568,578 cubic meters (3,576,356 barrels) in November to 599,207 cubic meters (3,769,012 barrels) in December.

The undersea oil production in December, 1977, showed an increase of almost 5 percent over November, 1977, i.e. 214,189 cubic meters (1,347,349 barrels) versus 20,038 cubic meters (1,238,400 barrels).

PETROBRAS President Gen Araken de Oliveira reported officially to President Geisel yesterday that known Brazilian oil reserves will "substantially increase." After his visit to Planalto Palace, he met with Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki. In a short meeting with the press, General de Oliveira avoided making any further comment, other than confirming that "oil reserves are going to increase."

SIX PEOPLE SAID DETAINED SINCE CONSULTATION

PY112207Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2030 GMT 11 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 11 Jan--It was learned here today that six persons opposing the Chilean Government have been detained since the day of the national consultation. The arrests were made in San Fernando, approximately 130 km from Santiago. One of the arrested is Ostavio Burotto, a former Christian Democratic leader who was intendent (governor) of a southern province during the presidency of Eduardo Frei. The detainees have been transferred to the jail in Rancagua, a city close to San Fernando, where they will be tried for violating the political recess.

CARVAJAL ON ARGENTINE ACTIONS IN BEAGLE CHANNEL ISSUE

PY121732Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1626 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 12 Jan--Foreign Minister Patricio Caravajal stated here today that the Argentine military exercises have not affected Chilean sovereignty over the Beagle Channel.

In a note delivered to diplomats accredited in Santiago, Caravajal made clear that "the Argentine Armed Forces' activities which may be considered as penetration into regions that are under Chilean sovereignty will have no legal effect on Chilean rights (in the southern region)."

The communique which was earlier delivered to the Argentine ambassador in Chile, Mario Hugo Miatello, adds that "the 1977 award has acknowledged the Chilean rights over the Picton, Lennox and Nueva islands, and over every small island and rocky formation located south of the Beagle Channel down to Cape Horn.

The document adds that "the present declaration about the Chilean rights is only a confirmation of an existing fact."

It concludes by expressing "the Chilean desire to achieve a peaceful solution to any dispute pursuant to the international law and treaties in force."

The Argentine military government reportedly will reject the British award issued in May whereby three islands in the Beagle Channel were granted to Chile. Argentina has deployed its naval forces to the area in dispute.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS SAFE-CONDUCT TO 7 IN REFUGE IN EMBASSY

PA120228Y Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Chilean Government has granted safe-conducts to seven people who sought refuge in the Venezuelan Embassy in Chile, the Foreign Ministry has reported. The safe-conducts were granted to German Marcelo Rojas, Alejandra Covarrubias (Orate), Maria Cristina (Herrer), Graciela Liliana Gallardo, Luis Omar Perez, Alberto Federico Herrera and Luis Felipe Cornejo. The Venezuelan Government has already granted political asylum to the seven refugees and was just waiting for the safe-conducts to be issued. It is expected that the Chilean refugees will arrive in our country within the next few hours.

CHILEAN UP ADVOCATES PINOCHET'S OVERTHROW

PA110005Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2133 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 10 Jan (AFP)--The Chilean Popular Unity [UP] parties today issued a statement saying that Gen Augusto Pinochet's regime must be overthrown to democratize Chile and labeled the 4 January plebiscite a "great farce."

The UP, which was overthrown in 1973, said that the clamor for democratization "becomes stronger every day and, in spite of the terror, protests are occurring and there is an irrepressible discussion of the political, economic and social problems that burden the country." The statement affirms that the UP is no longer alone in the struggle to reestablish democracy because Christian Democracy "has placed itself in frank and active opposition to the regime."

Representatives from the Socialist, Radical, Communist, the Labor and Peasant Unitary Popular Action Movement [MAPU] and the Christian Left signed the statement. The signatories said that in any case the 4 January plebiscite "left a negative balance for the dictator because it demonstrated that the armed forces are beginning to lessen their support. For the first time in 4 years of repression many Chileans took to the streets to demonstrate against the dictatorship," the document said.

The UP leaders said that their present policy is one of "alliance with all democratic forces," including the Christian Democracy and the democratic sectors of the armed forces, "without which it would be almost impossible to overthrow Pinochet."

During the same ceremony, representatives of the Socialist Party said that former deputy Mario Palestro had been "expelled" from the party for "working divisively in the antiparty cell called 'Coordinator of Regional Sectors' which has raised the banners of vociferous and ineffective ultraism." Palestro recently issued a statement here in the name of the Socialist Party condemning those who seek alliances with the Christian Democrats because the latter helped to overthrow President Salvador Allende.

FOREIGN DEBT FOR 1977 REMAINS AT SAME LEVEL

PY111743Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1544 GMT 11 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 11 Jan--The Central Bank reported that the total foreign debt as of 31 December 1977 remained at the same level as the previous year: $5.2 billion. Nevertheless, the traditional foreign debt (i.e. the public debt plus the private debt with public guarantee) amounted to $3.55 billion. This means a 2.8 percent reduction in the debt since 31 December 1976, when it amounted to $3,654,000,000, the Central Bank report added.

BRIEFS

EMBASSY IN MOROCCO--Rabat, 9 Jan--Chile has reopened its diplomatic mission in Morocco. The new Chilean ambassador is Enrique Guzman, who was director of international relations of the Chilean Foreign Ministry. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2055 GMT 9 Jan 78 PY]

ACTING DEFENSE MINISTER--Chilean Defense Minister Hermann Brady Roche starts a 1-week vacation today. During his absence Maj Gen Carlos Forestier, army deputy commander in chief, will be acting defense minister. [Text] [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 10 Jan 78 PY]

NEW 1ST NAVY ZONE CHIEF--In a ceremony held this morning at the navy arms school located at Las Salinas, Vice Adm Jorge Paredes, who has retured, handed over the command of the 1st Navy Zone to Vice Adm Arturo Troncoso, who will also be navy judge, commander of the garrison of the First Navy Zone and commander of the Valparaiso garrison. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 10 Jan 78 PY]

HART SPEAKS AT BOGOTA UNESCO MEETING

FL121312Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 78 FL

[Text] It was socialism which stressed one's own, our own [presumably cultural values] and raised them to the highest level, Cuban Cultural Minister Armando Hart has said yesterday at a very well-received talk to the plenum of the intergovernmental conference on cultural policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, which has been meeting since yesterday in Bogota, Colombia. The member of the PCC Politburo told the delegates that never before in Cuban history have our cultural values received higher praise than that which they have had since the triumph of the socialist revolution.

The Cuban delegation--which is also made up of Casa de Las America Director Haydee Santamaria, member of the PCC Central Committee; Julio le Riverend and Hermes Herrera--has given the best impression at the conference itself and in Bogota, states the Bogota newspaper EL TIEMPO. The paper points out that Hart is extraordinarily popular throughout the continent because of his efforts in the Cuban revolution and now at the head of the educational tasks and cultural developments undertaken by the Cuban Government.

Hart was elected deputy chairman of the important forum that is taking place under the auspices of UNESCO, and which will continue meeting until 20 January.

Further Details

FL121825Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1523 GMT 12 Jan 78 FL

[Excerpts] In Bogota, Culture Minister and PCC Politburo member Armando Hart Davalos has said that history has already not only absolved the Cuban revolution, but has recognized its true value. Amid acclamations, Hart carried on a quick exchange with the Chilean military regime spokesman at a session of the fourth intergovernmental meeting on culture in Latin America and the Caribbean being held in Bogota under the auspices of UNESCO. At the conference plenary session, the Cuban culture minister stated that the processes of reasserting cultural identity in Latin America and the Caribbean have been brutally violated on numerous occasions. Hart cited the repressive interventions on the universities, the dissolution of centers of research, interdiction of artist groups and the resultant massive exodus of scientists and intellectuals as characteristics of the situation under which the Chilean people live today.

Following the speech by the Chilean spokesman Alfredo Prieto in Bogota, Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart reaffirmed his statements relating to culture in Latin America. He added that Cuba does not want to interfere with the development of the conference, the first to take place in Latin America, with debates of this nature.

In another part of his speech in Bogota at the fourth intergovernmental meeting on culture, Armando Hart pointed out that because of tradition, history and culture, we people of America should not forget that Puerto Rico is an inseparable part of us. And he emphasized that we Cubans will defend this principle under all circumstances. Hart stated that a force of nations rises from the Rio Grande to Patagonia, united through history and above all else through the struggle against the same exploiters. A force of nations, whose enemies have always wanted to divide and breake up and lead in isolation from the rest of the world.

He said the history of our nations, world history, and the laws which guide the historical movement lead to the necessary union of the nations of America into a single and great fatherland. Armando Hart ended by saying that because of all this we proclaim with all our strength that Bolivar's mandate forms part of the cultural identity of our America.

COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO SIGN SEABED TREATY

PA122344Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Foreign Minister Indalecio Lievano Aguirre today voiced trust in a speedy solution to the seabed boundary limitation conflict between Colombia and Venezuela. However, he cautioned against attempts to obtain hasty agreements and advised that people should be patient, assuring that good news would be forthcoming. Lievano Aguirre spoke briefly to newsmen this morning at El Dorado Airport shortly before departing for the Dominican Republic to attend a ceremony in which the two nations will sign a treaty on the limitation of sea and seabed boundaries.

Regarding the conflict with Venezuela, Lievano Aguirre said that the Colombian and Venezuelan Governments have remained in constant communication regarding the issue that has become known as the conflict between the two countries. They have explored formulas and carried out consultations. It is expected that the cordial relations existing between the two nations and their presidents will permit a definite agreement within a reasonable period, the foreign minister added.

Foreign Minister Lievano Aguirre stressed here today that the signing of treaties to limit the sea and seabed boundaries with neighboring countries is intended not only to consolidate national sovereignty, but also to contribute to maintaining peace in the world.

Lievano Aguirre cautioned that the struggle over the resources in the marine areas and on the continental shelf will be a source of serious conflicts that may well constitute a serious problem for maintaining peace.

The Colombian foreign minister stated this opinion when describing the significance of the new treaty on sea and seabed areas he will sign in the name of Colombia today with the Government of the Dominican Republic. Lievano revealed that in the Caribbean, limitation is established by following the line drawn according to the principle of equal distances to determine the sea and seabed areas adjacent to the coasts of the two nations from the point where the international boundary reaches the sea.

The foreign minister announced that in 2 weeks Colombia will sign a similar treaty with Haiti and later with Jamaica.

UNKNOWN PERSONS ATTACK VENEZUELAN CONSULATE IN COLOMBIA

PA111948Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Three unknown persons machinegunned the Venezuelan Consulate at (?Icao). The assailants stopped in front of the consulate and fired several machinegun bursts. The bullets destroyed the windows and doors of the building. There were no victims.

The Colombian authorities are searching for the assailants who fled in an automobile.

POVEDA REAFFIRMS GOVERNMENT PLEBISCITE PLANS

PY1201417Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0030 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY

[By Julio Cesar Villaverde]

[Text] Quito, 11 Jan--The military government today ratified its firm desire to turn over the government to a president elected this year, and made a strong call to the citizenry to push a crusade of national unity.

This call was made by Vice Adm Alfredo Poveda, president of the Supreme Council of Government, on the second anniversary of the current military triumvirate.

The speech was marking an acute political campaign regarding a plebiscite to be held on Sunday, in which 1.6 million Ecuadoreans will have to choose between a draft of a new constitution and the 1945 charter, extensively amended. It also coincided with a strong call by former president Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra to the voters to cast blank votes, as a rejection of the plan for institutionalization which includes the election of a civilian chief of state on 16 July.

"On taking power after overthrowing Gen Guillermo Rodriguez Lara, the current government of the armed forces freely took on the commitment to reestablish the constitutional regime and to return (to the people) the democratic exercise of their political rights," Poveda said in his radio speech.

He added: "This irreversible decision has guided our steps to implement a plan of returning to the constitutional order and will continue to reflect the firm desire of the government until power is responsibly turned over to the citizen who will be committed, by request of the people, to establishing the new state of law."

He then reasserted "with the strength and fervor of deep convictions, my call for a crusade for national unity."

He added that "the government is carrying out its duties and has given proof of the sincerity with which it is imbued. It is now up to the citizenry to have their say and make their contribution."

He made a new call to strengthen political parties which have been repeatedly charged with lacking the appropriate programming bases, because it will be the serious, strong, mature, and effective parties which will provide the irreplaceable channels for civic action imbued with a patriotism strong enough to carry out major projects.

Poveda stressed that the military junta has viewed with satisfaction the broad exchange of ideas and the debates unleashed recently, but has noted with concern the appearance of certain tendencies which, although said to be democratically pure, may want to subvert order and cause the failure of the planned return [to civilian rule].

He added: "We state categorically that under no circumstances will we allow the disruption of the nation's peace, and even less attacks on the people's freedom of expression."

He then went on to say that the best efforts will be made to prevent and repress any kind of terrorist, subversive or anarchist demonstrations motivated by local or international force, aimed at creating an atmosphere of fear or unrest.

With reference to Sunday's plebiscite, Poveda said that "it is an unavoidable civic duty, and whatever the result, the people and government must go on to the electoral process scheduled for July, with great cohesion and through whatever actions it may be necessary to implement."

GALO PLAZA DENIES COURT DECISION ON AMNESTY

PY120153Y Quito Radio La Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 0030 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] The president of the Supreme Court for the Referendum, Galo Plaza, has indicated that the Supreme Court, through a public communique, will decide tomorrow its position regarding the amnesty requested by union leaders and teachers under arrest.

With regard to a report broadcast last night by one of the Quito television stations stating that the amnesty had been accepted and would be approved by the government, Plaza said that the report was inaccurate, that all that was said was that the problem would be submitted to the government and that its resolution was strictly up to the government. At any rate, the court will decide its position tomorrow with regard to this important problem.

The president of the Supreme Court for the Referendum, Galo Plaza, emphatically denied that he had submitted his resignation to Justice Minister Col Bolivar Jarrin Cahuenas when they held a meeting yesterday afternoon.

In view of the many rumors in Guayaquil, Galo Plaza was interviewed at his house. He declared that he had nothing new to say and that he knew nothing of his alleged resignation.

In conclusion, the president of the Supreme Court for the Referendum, in answer to a question about whether he will continue to head the Supreme Court after Sunday's referendum, said, visibly annoyed: "Let us first wait until after the referendum."

LIBERALS ENDORSE NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION, APPOINT NEW LEADER

PA091203Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 8 Jan (EFE)--The Ecudorean Liberal Party's National Assembly today confirmed that it will participate in the referendum and announced that it is in favor of the new draft constitution. Meanwhile, Guayaquil politician Francisco Huerta Montalvo has been appointed national director of the party. For its part, the newspaper EL COMERCIO of this capital today said that almost 500,000 Ecuadorean youths will be able to vote for the first time on 15 January, when the national referendum on the new constitution is held.

THREATS AGAINST VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS RECEIVED AT ACAN OFFICE

PA121925Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The self-styled Pedro Luis (Boitel) command today threated to severely punish Venezuelan officials, including President Carlos Andres Perez, and to destroy objectives in that country as a consequence of the imprisonment of Orlando Bosch and his companions.

In a message sent to the Panama office of the ACAN Central American News Agency, the command claimed responsibility for the attacks perpetrated against Venezuelan properties in the United States and threatened that it would soon carry out graver actions to protest the arrest of Bosch and his companions.

Bosch is the main defendant in the October, 1976, attack against a plane belonging to the Cubana de Aviacion Airline which fell into the Caribbean Sea with its crew and passengers. Seventy-three perished as a consequence of the bomb attack, among them the entire Cuban Olympic youth fencing team.

VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR ON BORDER TALKS WITH COLOMBIA

PA112007Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Caracas--Venezuelan Ambassador Guido Groscoors said on arrival here that he believes the relations between Colombia and Venezuela are going through auspicious moments. The Venezuelan diplomat returned to the country in order to settle some matters at the Foreign Ministry and talk with several ministers.

Referring to the negotiations between the two countries concerning the demarcation of the marine and submarine areas in the Gulf of Venezuela, Groscoors said: We are about to reach an agreement that will respect the vital interests of both countries. Groscoors announced the creation in Bogota of the Venezuelan-Colombian Center, an exposition center where the cultural program underway in Venezuela and new works of art in plastic will be exhibited.

FOREIGN MINISTER ATTENDS CUBAN EMBASSY RECEPTION

FL121622Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1509 GMT 12 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi has attended the reception given in Caracas by Cuban Ambassador Norberto Hernandez in honor of the 19th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution in our country. At the Cuban event were Agriculture and Livestock Minister Gustavo Pinto Cohen and Carlos Canache Mata, Chamber of Deputies vice president and political secretary of the ruling Democratic Action.

FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE ON NATION'S POLICIES

PA112001Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 100 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Caracas--The need for a new international economic order that will contribute to shortening the distance between the industrialized and the developing nations is being pursued in government, according to a report by the institute.

The report maintains that in this respect, the nation's foreign policy pursues five basic objectives in the effort to reduce the distance between the industrialized and the developing nations. One of the objectives of that policy is to promote international solidarity with the developing nations in order to form a common front in defense of the prices of raw materials. Another objective points to the need of the Latin American nations to develop their productive possibilities.

Meanwhile, Dr Reinaldo Figueredo, president of the Foreign Trade Institute, declared that the big industrial powers are trying to negotiate behind the back of the Third World, warning that Venezuela should adopt new strategies in its international economic policy. Dr Figueredo explained that the new situation requires a new analysis on the part of the government and an adjustment in its strategies within the framework of its alinement with the Group of 77.

He said the United States, the European Economic Community and Japan are preparing to undertake negotiations to expand trade among themselves, disregarding the interests of the developing nations. In this case, he added, the developing nations would limit themselves to merely giving their approval to the trade activities of those industrialized powers without having taken part in the decisions.

LEFTWING PARTIES ISSUE JOINT DECLARATION

PA120057Y Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The four leftwing parties that have nominated presidential candidates issued a joint declaration at the end of their meeting today. The meeting was attended by the secretaries general of the Movement for Socialism [MAS], the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, the People's Electoral Movement and the Communist Party of Venezuela, Pompeyo Marquez, Hector Perez Marcano, Jesus Angel Paz Galarraga and Jesus Faria, respectively. Other top-ranking leaders of the four parties also participated. The meeting was held in the Maracaibo Lounge in El Conde Hotel. MAS Secretary General Pompeyo Marquez read the joint declaration to newsmen after the meeting, which was held behind closed doors.

[Marquez--begin recording] The parties that signed this declaration at the end of today's meeting have agreed on the following conclusions: First, we view the meeting positively. The estrangement and mutual clashes within the leftwing, due to circumstances that need not be mentioned here, have caused concern and some worry in large segments of the population. Therefore, these parties favor any effort to overcome this situation. [end recording]

Marquez added: [begin recording] The Venezuelan people want the leftwing groups to have a productive relationship based on the common desire of changing society and building a new nation. In this sense, setting aside our various positions, we feel compelled to seek possible understandings that will strengthen the nature and intensity of the people's just struggles. [end recording]

The leftwing parties also agreed to promote a climate of mutual respect and to study the prospects of advancing common stands on national problems. Toward this end, they appointed a liaison committee made up of the secretaries general of the various parties. The joint declaration notes that any other organization and figure who feels a desire for unity may also join the committee.

ESCOBAR BETHANCOURT DISCUSSES POLITICAL OPENING

PA112338Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0230 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

["Enfoques" discussion program moderated by Televisora Nacional news director Mario Velasquez and Itzel de Rangel with Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, adviser to Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos, at the Televisora Nacional Studios in Panama City--live]

[Text] [Velasquez] Dr Escobar Bethancourt, it is a great pleasure to have you with us tonight to discuss the topic of the democratic opening, which was discussed by David Samudio and Dr Mario Galindo in the first Enfoques program. First of all, I believe the day after that program you made some public statements which were published in the local newspaper. In a way you were responding to Samudio and Dr Galindo when you said this is not a democratic Indian summer but rather a permanent opening sponsored by the revolutionary government. Tonight I would like you, Dr Escobar Bethancourt, to tell us to what extent the democratic opening is permanent.

[Escobar Bethancourt] Thank you very much, distinguished Mario. True, after the first presentation of your Enfoques program we thought it would be advisable to explain the concept of the democratic Indian summer because we felt the revolutionary government's true objectives might not be well understood, and we explained that this is not an Indian summer but a permanent policy on the part of the government.

Chief of Government General Torrijos, President Lakas and the entire government are fully aware and intend to develop and consolidate the democratic foundations to the fullest. All Panamanians will participate in the next electoral campaign without restrictions of any kind and in absolute freedom of action and thought. We sincerely believe our country has now entered a stage of political maturity that permits the effective participation of all Panamanians in a democratic process.

[Rangel] Well, certain doubts remain. The concept of the democratic opening that you have presented includes certain indicators. For instance, the participation by all Panamanians that you have just mentioned has been taking place since September of last year. Nonetheless, there are other concepts, such as the change of the administrative institutions. Those remain the same. The members of the government are the same, the government institutions are the same, the legislative system has not been changed in the past few months, so how can we say that there is a democratic opening if just one element of this democratic opening has been slightly changed, that is, the Panamanians' participation in the social communications media and in politics? On the other hand, in terms of legislation and administration, the same institutions of the past are being maintained.

[Escobar Bethancourt] I would say there is a difference between the concept of institutions and the concept of participation. Logically, institutions do not change quickly. The value of an institution lies precisely in its permanence. So in this sense we would say that the democratic participation is taking place within the framework of the state's institutions. Within the framework of those institutions--not in September of last year, but since 1972--a new institution, the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, came into being. It replaced the former National Assembly. It is based on the idea of representation by communities so that each representative is directly linked to his community's problems. This is an institution formed at the constitutional level and for this reason if it were to be changed it would have to be changed constitutionally. Institutions cannot be changed quickly.

[Rangel] But some changes can already be seen.

Previously, even participants in this program have brought up the need to change not only the administrative aspect of these institutions, but also their functions. You have mentioned the Assembly of Representatives as an example, but it has been attacked in the media and in political circles.

[Escobar Bethancourt] Yes, it has been attacked, but the fact that there are political discrepancies regarding an institution does not necessarily lead to changes in that institution. For many years the National Assembly also was questioned as an institution in our country, but it was not until 1969 that a new concept of representation began taking shape, which culminated in 1972 in the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives.

[Velasquez] Dr Escobar Bethancourt, regarding this reference to the Assembly of Representatives, I would like to ask you your opinion of the statements made last Tuesday during this program by both Samudio and Dr Galindo that representation is not balanced since in some corregimientos there are very few voters and yet they elect one representative while in other highly populated corregimientos a single representative is also elected. That lack of proportion was in my opinion very well presented here. What is your opinion on this, how does the government feel about this situation?

[Escobar Bethancourt] The position of Dr Mario Galindo and of Samudio regarding the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives consists basically of an exclusively political interpretation. But by studying the documents that established the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives one can see that not only the political factor but also the social development factor prevail. This is a new concept in the country's political development. In the former National Assembly certain provinces had many deputies because of their large population, while others with small populations had only one, two or three deputies. As a result of this, throughout our history our country developed with a very big head and a feeble body because, for political reasons, the governments always gave preference in their budgets to those provinces that had more deputies, who were the ones who would approve the budget.

In 1972 we changed this concept so that each community, regardless of its population, now has one representative. In this way, not only the country's political but also economic development can take place more harmoniously. The country's structure takes on new features. If you look, you can see why provinces such as Darien and Bocas del Toro are the most backward in the country. Why doesn't Bocas del Toro have a highway? Why is Darien underdeveloped? Simply because those provinces had only one deputy. Since they had only one deputy, no one paid any attention to them. One vote was not very important.

Representation based on the number of people is very debatable. For example, let us look at international organizations such as the United Nations. China has a population of 700 million while Panama only has 1.7 million people. Using this as an example, China should then have about 700 votes, but both Panama and the PRC have one vote each. And at the OAS, the United States, which has hundreds of millions of people, has one vote just as Costa Rica and Panama. So it is very debatable whether representation should be based exclusively on the number of people that the individual represents. We believe that Dr Mario Galindo and Engineer Samudio considered that concept exclusively from a political outlook and not from a socioeconomic outlook, which is the way that this revolutionary government has handled it.

[Velasquez] What is your opinion of the proposal by some opposition sectors that a constituent assembly be convened as an expression of the political opening?

[Escobar Bethancourt] It would mean that our whole juridicial and constitutional system would be disordered. I do not think they have weighed the consequences of this proposal. The national constitution has to be reformed before a constituent assembly can be convened. The reform of the national constitution would have to occur during two terms--this term and the next. That is, a single Corregimiento Representatives Assembly cannot reform the constitution. Two different assemblies have to reform it. Therefore, in practice, what the proponents of a constituent assembly are proposing is a coup d'etat.

[Velasquez] Your comment is very interesting, Dr Escobar Bethancourt, because I think this is the first time that a high-ranking official like yourself has replied to the opposition's proposal on the constituent assembly. I don't know if Itzel wants to ask a question on the political parties.

[Rangel] Yes, that is precisely what I was noting down. In what way can the political parties be given participation if they are not institutionalized or if there is no legislation on the political party system in Panama, such as the requirements for forming parties and regulations for their being truly representative and covering their financing, which was mentioned by Galindo in the previous program? What steps are you taking to create favorable conditions for this to occur?

[Escobar Bethancourt] For now, what we are doing is waiting for all political opinions in the country to be expressed. Let them be expressed, either individually or through groups. Many citizens might prefer to express their political views through the conventions of their extinct political parties with the possibility that those parties might be reborn. The national constitution recognizes the existence of political parties. In order that those parties may exist, it is necessary that the government legislate and regulate the existence of the political parties. In those regulations, the government has to establish, for example, the number of members the political parties need to have, whether there are going to be local parties or national parties, how those parties are going to operate, how they are going to be financed, how the nominations are going to be made, whether through national or district elections, and everything related to the existence and operation of the parties.

[Rangel] Are you doing this right now?

[Escobar Bethancourt] The government still has not completely entered into the subject of the political parties. What do I mean by this? This is a subject that must be discussed and decided at the government level. All the circumstances related to the treaty, the senators' visits and all those problems in addition to the Christmas and New Year's festivities and the plebiscite we held, have, to a certain degree, prevented the government from directly dealing with the problem of the political organizations. But the government has a very open attitude regarding this. That is why the parties are beginning to hold their conventions.

[Rangel] But it is the traditional parties that will lose if there is a new emergence of some other parties, including representatives of the government who express their political views, since those who have had party experience are those who actively participated 9 years ago and who will be harmed by the delayed participation that the legislation you will issue will establish? [sentence as heard]

[Escobar Bethancourt] We do not believe it would be detrimental to anyone. Right now those that do not mobilize or do not hold conventions or do not carry out political activities do not want to.

So if only the traditional parties are the ones that are mobilizing it must be because they are the only ones able to mobilize. The other groups which think differently, which can form parties of other dimensions, political organizations that do not have the traditional views, also have the full right to organize if they so desire.

[Velasquez] You have said that so far the government has not paid the necessary attention to the subject of political parties because it has been busy with other matters. Nevertheless, I believe you must have an opinion regarding some fundamental points. I would think that you must have some opinion on the plurality of parties and on the nature of the organization of parties. I think that in promoting political parties we would not return to the political history of 9 years ago with a plurality of parties and the political structure of those parties. Does my statement have any basis?

[Escobar Bethancourt] Yes it does have a basis, in the sense that there has been some talk at the government level regarding these problems. What we do not have is a decision. But there is discussion on some basic concepts such as elections. We believe they should not be like the ones that occurred before 1968. We believe that we have eliminated all those aspects of coercion, persecution, buying of votes and enclosing people in corrals to transfer them to the polls.

An atmosphere of true respect for the citizen's vote has resulted because of the experience acquired by the Panamanian people in the 1972 elections and in the plebiscite. In addition, the polls are now watched by students, teachers, firemen and so on. This is one of the basic concepts that is being discussed. We are seeking paths so that the elections will truly represent and reflect the popular will.

Regarding the political parties, their existence should not make one presume that they will proliferate and that they will have the same structure they had before 1968. The Panamanian people have experienced that proliferation of parties. Many of them were not truly representative of the popular sectors but of certain individuals. They were not a true expression of the Panamanian democratic system but, instead, were the imposition of small economically powerful groups over the desires of the popular majorities.

We believe that as a result of the past 9 years of revolutionary government, not only government officials but all citizens, particularly those connected with political life, have already acquired sufficient experience to understand the reasons for the 1968 events: That it was the parties which led the country into its chaotic state so that the National Guard had to intervene to bring order; that in 1972 the revolution was institutionalized and that a future opening or regulation of the existence of political parties must necessarily mean that these parties will truly represent broad popular sectors and contribute to the consolidation of the Panamanian democratic process and national liberation.

[Velasquez] Dr Escobar Bethancourt, should we definitively understand from your statements that the government will legalize and regulate political parties in the country?

[Escobar Bethancourt] I could not say if the government will or will not, because this is a subject that still has not been decided. I do know that the government will convene a series of government meetings to analyze, discuss and resolve this subject. Meanwhile, all political organizations have the full right to hold their conventions and carry out their activities as if they existed.

[Velasquez] Dr Escobar Bethancourt, at the beginning of this program you said that in your opinion the request by some opposition groups--I believe this is a specific request of the Movement of Independent Lawyers--for a constituent assembly is a call for a coup d'etat. Could you clarify this, because I believe it is a very categoric and arbitrary reply?

[Escobar Bethancourt] No it is not arbitrary, because if you analyze what the convening of a constituent assembly means, you will see the following: first, you must violate the national constitution, which establishes very firm periods for holding elections; second, the national constitution establishes the structure of the Corregimiento Representatives Assembly. In order to disavow the existence of the Corregimiento Representatives Assembly and in order not to convene elections in 1978 but instead to convene a constituent assembly, one would have to stage a coup d'etat. Why a coup d'etat? Because you would have to disavow the political principles of the national constitution and replace it with a temporary government entity to organize elections for a constituent assembly. It would be an assembly exclusively established to reform the national constitution.

[Rangel] Dr Escobar Bethancourt, before ending tonight's program I would like you to explain whether your participation and the opinions you have expressed here are personal or official and whether General Torrijos or government representatives agree or accept the ideas you have expressed here?

[Escobar Bethancourt] Well, both. My participation here is naturally on a personal basis, but this does not mean I am exclusively expressing my own ideas. I think I have stated many of the feelings of General Torrijos and other top government officials. General Torrijos is the first one convinced that the Panamanian democratic process has to be consolidated. He is convinced that there must be a free interplay of ideas and a free interplay of participation by all citizens, either through groups or individually. He is convinced that all Panamanians should participate in the country's political life. General Torrijos believes that far from weakening our country's economic and political development, this strengthens it. General Torrijos believes, and he has told me this many times, that a government that hears the intimate truth of its people--and the way to hear it is by permitting the people and all their representative sectors to freely participate--is a government that can act in accordance with the desire and will of the popular masses.

General Torrijos is a man who has always been characterized by the fact that he does not feel he has a monopoly on truth. Nor does he have Hamlet's complex. He is a man who when he commits an error is the first to want to correct it. He is a man who does not consider himself perfect or infallible. He has never committed the mistake of believing he is infallible.

On the contrary, he is constantly consulting with the communities, the peasants, the workers, the teachers, the students, the merchants and the businessmen. It is a daily consultation with all the country's sectors so that he can draw out the intimate truth of how our people feel. Therefore, I would say that although in this program I am not really speaking in his name, in many of the things I have stated I am reflecting the deeply democratic sentiments of our chief of government.

[Velasquez] Dr Escobar Bethancourt, thank you very much for coming here tonight. I think your statements have great merit, not only because of your political experience but because you are one of the persons closest to General Torrijos. And you have expressed, particularly in your concluding statements, General Torrijos' views on Panamanian politics.

This has enriched the explanations and understandings we wanted to contribute through these two programs on the subject of the political and democratic opening which is of great interest to the community. Thank you very much for participating in this program.

[Escobar Bethancourt] My thanks to you, Mario.

[Velasquez] Good night, dear television viewers.

STUDENT LEADER INTERVIEWED ON CANAL TREATY

PA112036Y Panama City Televisora Nacional In Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Interview with Mario Panter, secretary general of the Federation of Panamanian Students, by Itzel Velasquez de Rangel--presumably recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mario, the Federation of Panamanian Students [FEP] recently raised a slogan which was published by all Panama City daily newspapers. The slogan is: If Ratification Fails, Arms for Liberation. What should the people understand by this slogan? How can it be interpreted?

[Answer] Itzel, the slogan had actually been launched previously. We had said: If Negotiations Fail, Arms for Liberation.

Actually, the intention here is to condition our people psychologically for other options. The FEP's position has been that our problem with the United States must be solved peacefully. However, this has its limitations. Much depends on the attitude of the U.S. Government. We noticed how throughout the negotiating process they delayed the negotiations and resorted to a thousand subtle means to block progress in the negotiations. The patriotic behavior of our negotiating mission forced the conclusion of the negotiations. It must also be understood that there were more realistic positions on the part of the U.S. negotiating team.

However, we can see at the present time that the most retrogressive sectors of the U.S. Senate are trying to impose amendments on Panama. Through this treaty our people agreed to things which are really painful to any Panamanian patriot. I feel that our people have acted with great political maturity and have managed to understand that despite these negative aspects the treaty does constitute a step forward.

However, if certain sectors in the United States and the U.S. Government insist on continuing to postpone or delay a peaceful solution to the controversy between our countries, then our people must understand, which in effect they do, that the path will be different.

When we speak of arms for liberation we speak of the fact that we must prepare for a liberation war.

PROMINENT PANAMENISTAS DISCUSS PARTY POLICY

PA120414 [Editorial Report PA] Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 11 January 1978 carries a panel discussion with Luis Felipe Clement, Guillermo Endara, Jr. and Emilio Royo Linares, all prominent members of the Panamenisa Party. First to speak is Clement, who delves into the party's history since it was founded in 1939, stressing all the contributions it had made to improve the community. He pointed out that the Panamenista Party is unlike communist regimes or military dictatorships in that it emphasizes nationalism.

Roy Linares then explains Panamenista doctrine, which, he says, is broadly described in various books, which he mentions.

Clement then explains that the party's present goal is to rebuild the republic, for which it is open to all persons. Clement then remarks that what the Panamenista Party primarily wants is popular elections, but not "an orchestra made up of 505 persons who do not play any instruments, an assembly of representatives who cannot legislate and can only elect a president who does not rule, declare war and approve treaties..." Clement adds that the party proposes a separation of powers: "A legislative branch that will have true legislative power, an executive branch that is equally independent of the legislative and judiciary branches and a judiciary branch that truly administraters justice."

In view of the present situation, Clement notes, the Panamenista Party propounds two policies, one of which is national reconstruction. He adds that 9 years have destroyed many basic institutions. "Reconstruction," he goes on to say, "is not only the task of the Panamenista Party, but of the entire nation." In order to do this, he says, there is no need to return to the past. The nation must be rebuilt on more solid foundations than in the past, adding that it is not only the task of one party but of all parties. "All that is needed," he continues, "is good will and democratic faith. We are open to all parties. We do not even want to be the leaders. We are ready to play a secondary role, and if somebody else wants to take the leadership of this movement, we will second it."

In connection with the new treaties, Clement says that the Panamenista Party gave its opinion before the plebiscite. He says that the party believes that the treaties do not solve problems but create new ones, primarily because all conflicts will be solved by a commission made up of five U.S. and four Panamanian citizens, and thus all decisions will be favorable to the United States.

On the subject of cooperation with the government, Clement comments that many members of the Panamenista Party work in the government because there are many honest Panamenistas who believe the state belongs to all. However, he observes, none of them works in policy-making positions.

On the issue of elections, Clement states that the party has not taken any definite position, but that it does not consider it appropriate to participate in elections for an assembly that has no real legislative or political duties.

Endara then comments that the best solution would be a constituent assembly, and he voices hope that this is what will happen in Panama.

Again on the subject of the Panama Canal treaties, Royo Linares notes that he does not believe that the negotiators betrayed the country. He says that they did what they could. He points out that there are good and bad clauses in the treaties, noting that Torrijos himself admitted that the neutrality issue could put Panama under the umbrella of the Pentagon. He adds that during meetings with U.S. senators the Panamenista Party clearly established that if the treaties are ratified by the Senate, any future Panamenista Party government would not reject it, but would respect them as international policy.

On the subject of human rights, an unidentified speaker says that human rights are not being respected in Panama. As an example, he points out the right to live in one's own country.

Clement, Endara and Royo Linares then go on to discuss the Panamenista Party convention held in Santiago on 8 January, at which the Proclamation of Santiago was issued.

COSTA RICA

BORDER WITH NICARAGUA IS REINFORCED

PA122203Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2137 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Costa Rican Government has increased its vigilance along the border with Nicaragua, preparing for the expected movement of persons opposed to President Anastasio Somoza's regime. The difficult Nicaraguan situation following the murder of journalist and government opponent Pedro Joaquin Chamorro might be used by Somoza's enemies to cross into Nicaragua from Costa Rica for subversive purposes. The Public Security Ministry sent a detachment of men to reinforce the command under Lt Col Santiago Calderon in the area of Chiles, precisely where the members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] members crossed over last October to take refuge in Costa Rica after attacking a Nicaraguan National Guard post in the town of San Carlos.

President Daniel Oduber has reaffirmed his decision to prevent the use of his country as a staging point to attack the Nicaraguan Government and reiterated the condition imposed on every political exile to avoid any activity which could compromise Costa Rica's neutrality.

HONDURAS

OUTSTANDING NEWSMEN CONDEMN CHAMORRO'S ASSASSINATION

PA102324Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2119 GMT 10 JAN 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The most outstanding newsmen and news media directors in Honduras today agreed to condemn the death of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, director of the newspaper LA PRENSA of Managua, Nicaragua, who was slain this morning.

"Latin American journalism is in mourning because of this assassination. The persons who killed him were unable to oppose with ideas his firm democratic line," Oscar A. Flores, the director of the newspaper LA TRIBUNA, said. Flores added that although his killers have not been identified, "if it was the official sector, Nicaragua has the most stupid official sector in the world." Flores said that "General Somoza should have given Chamorro every means of protection so that in Nicaragua he would not have been hurt even by a flower petal." Flores did not discard the possibility that Chamorro "was killed by the enemies of General Somoza in order to create problems for him."

Meanwhile, Ramon Villeda Bermudez, director of the newspaper LA PRENSA, termed the fatal shooting of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro "an act of barbarism." "They killed Chamorro, but they did not kill his ideas. His ideal remains firm in the American continent and the hopes for freedom and changes he wanted for Nicaragua are still alive, now stronger than ever. More leaders struggling for democratization in Latin America will follow his example," Villeda Bermudez said.

Manuel Gamero, director of the newspaper TIEMPO, said "I am deeply horrified by the assassination of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. The continent has lost one of its most outstanding champions of freedom." Gamero, a personal friend of Chamorro, said that "with Chamorro dies 25 years of struggle for the establishment in his country and in Latin America a state of freedom, dignity and respect for human rights."

"It is an abominable crime. Every man of letters, and newsmen in particular, must condemn the ominous conduct of those responsible for this crime, which deserves the loathing and indignation of the press. Chamorro h[as] only been eliminated physically, but his ideas are a living example for all the wo[rld] newsmen in this world." Gamero recalled that during his life as a newsman "Chamor[ro] was always in the front line, defending his friends and colleagues in danger, or threatened by censorship or other difficult situations."

Meanwhile, the Honduran Press Association (APH) will issue a motion for mourning and will demand an investigation on an international level of the assassination of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

"Journalism in Latin America today mourns the death of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. They killed the man, they silenced the newsman, but they created a martyr who will be an example of dignity for all those who pursue journalism as a career. Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's ideas of freedom will remain pure forever," APH President Andres Torres said.

Honduran radio stations are carrying special transmissions with news and relays from Nicaraguan stations to keep the Honduran people abreast of all incidents connected with the death of the director of LA PRENSA in Managua.

NICARAGUA

AFTERMATH, COMMENTARY ON DEATH OF NEWSMAN CHAMORRO

PCN Declares Chamorro Martyr

PA121654Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2327 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 10 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Conservative Party (PCN) has declared Nicaraguan newsman and politician Pedro J. Chamorro Cardenal, who was assassinated today in Managua's "earthquake-destroyed" streets, "martyr of public liberties." In an official communique signed by Sandino Arguello and Eduardo Chamorro Coronel, president of the political secretariat, the PCN, which opposed Chamorro Cardenal, warns that "this condemnable and cowardly assassination will have unforeseeable consequences that may change the course of this country's political and social life."

Considering that the assassinated newsman was a prominent member of the conservative community, an example of rectitude and honesty for which "he endured penalities for his political convictions and decided defense of the human rights of the Nicaraguan people, he is declared martyr of public liberties and of the maintenance of his firm democratic and republican convictions."

The PCN, one of this country's historic parties, demands from the National Guard and the competent authorities a thorough investigation of this crime and punishment for the guilty persons. The president of this party has called a meeting of the party's national and legal board to "carefully analyze this monstrous assassination and to take whatever political steps are deemed necessary."

Somoza Orders Investigation

PA112237Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1007 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 11 Jan (AFP)--Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza today ordered the state special security police to thoroughly investigate the murder of LA PRENSA director Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

Venezuela's Perez Sends Condolences

PA120240Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 11 Jan (LATIN)--President Carlos Andres Perez today condemned the "dastardly assassination" of Nicaraguan journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, director of the newspaper LA PRENSA, who was shot to death in an ambush in Managua. "I received the incredible news of the dastardly murder of Pedro Joaquin with deep indignation. It is not easy for me to express my feelings and to convey my solidarity, sorrow and protest over this abominable crime," the Venezuelan president said in a letter to Chamorro's widow, Violeta de Chamorro.

President Perez said that "the honest, dignified and courageous life of this illustrious Nicaraguan democrat...will be an undying example for the Latin American people, particularly for the Nicaraguans, who are rendering the homage which his work and courage deserve. Ideas cannot be murdered. Crime cannot silence the just protests, and those who patriotically dedicate their lives to such a noble cause, as your husband defended to the point of sacrificing his life, never die." Chamorro "stands like a symbol and watchword for those of us who believe and fight for the dignity of man in our martyred Latin American fatherland," concluded Perez.

Funeral Postponed, Buinesses Closed

PA121517Y San Jose Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1455 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] There is apparent calm in Managua while thousands upon thousands coming from different places are paying their last respects to Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, whose body has been in the Las Palmas Church since 0500 this morning. Numerous businesses started closing after 0800 in support of a protest strike by all private businesses against the vile murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. This morning's gave incidents forced Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's family to take his body from the offices of LA PRENSA newspaper, which will not be circulating today, to Las Palmas Church.

It is believed that Chamorro's funeral will be held at 1300, being postponed from the time originally given. Thousands upon thousands continue surrounding the church. The government has yet to issue a categorical pronouncement regarding the persons responsible for the murder.

Tension Accompanies Burial

PA122147Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2053 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Jan (LATIN)--Shortly after noon the coffin containing the body of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, murdered here day-before-yesterday, was taken to the Las Palmas Church, where mass was said and from where the funeral procession left for the cemetery. Thousands of persons joined the funeral procession bearing placards condemning the crime, and demanding a complete investigation to identify the intellectual authors of the crime.

Meanwhile, the Managua Police are taking measures to prevent disorders, according to a communique issued today in this respect. The National Radio and Television Directorate today at noon called a meeting of all the country's radio station owners so that National Guard Public Relations Chief Col Aquiles Aranda could read to them a petition by the National Guard's general staff. The petition urged the radio stations to remain calm and avoid any commentary or insinuation which could increase tension.

Aquiles Aranda also said that the National Guard investigation of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's murder on Tuesday morning was about 80 percent complete. "This afternoon the police expect to conclude the investigation, the results of which will be released Friday nationally and internationally in a detailed communique," Aquiles added.

Col Aranda specified that tomorrow's communique will have full information on the names of the intellectual authors and the reasons for the murder. This is what the people want to know.

Before the funeral there was a resumption of the violence begun last night. A group of youths marched through the city shouting slogans hostile to the government.

Last night an establishment under the name of Plasmaferresis--a concern producing blood plasma for export--[words indistinct] and whose ownership the opposition assigns to Somoza himself. After leaving the place in flames, the group of anti-Castro Cubans who administrate it reported to police that it was a total loss and that damage was estimated at several million dollars.

FSLN Faction Condemns Death

PA121650Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0450 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 11 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The proletarian faction of the Sandinish National Liberation Front (FSLN) today condemned yesterday's assassination of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal.

In a communique sent to the local news media, the FSLN faction expressed its "total condemnation of the political assassination by the dictatorship's terrorism." The FSLN proletarian faction stated that the crime against the LA PRENSA director "encourages revolutionary violence through the action of the masses." "What happened to Dr Chamorro has also been suffered by Sandinist militants, Nicaraguans, peasants, workers and intellectuals," the FSLN faction added.

Officials Say Murderers Confessed

PA121647Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1635 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, a newsman and opposition leader, on Tuesday has been partially solved. Reports received today from official sources confirm that Domingo Acevedo Chavarria, Harold Cedeno Escoto, Silvio Pena Rivas and Silvio Vega Zuniga, who were under arrest, confessed their participation in the crime which has shaken Nicaraguan society and Latin American newsmen's circles.

Details of the confession made by the murderers to military authorities have not been revealed yet but the group, lead by Pena Rivas, definitely shot and killed Chamorro. The criminals used three cars to commit the crime: a tan colored Nova, a blue Ford Cortina and a green Toyota Corolla, which are being held by police investigators.

Pena Rivas supervised the crime from the green Toyota Corolla.

The National Guard's Laws and Public Relations Office has promised to provide more specific details on the execution and planning of the crime as soon as possible. In the meantime, the people await information on the identity of the person or persons who paid the killers.

Violence Breaks Out

PA122333Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2319 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Violence once again broke out in this capital city following the funeral of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, a newsman and politician murdered on 10 January. Early this afternoon, demonstrators attacked the offices of the newspaper NOVEDADES, owned by the Somoza family. Unidentified persons attacked the Novedades building, breaking its windows, front door and the furniture inside the building. Watchmen in the offices resisted the attack by firing into the air to contain the rioters. Shortly afterwards, an armed patrol arrived and threw tear gas grenades against the demonstrators who dispersed into the nearby alleys of Mantica District, where the newspaper offices are located.

Teargas Used on Demonstrators

PA121632Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] In Managua, police troops of the Anastasio Somoza regime repressed with teargas bombs a huge demonstration which accompanied the body of assassinated newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro when he was being taken to the office of the daily LA PRENSA of which he was director until the moment of his death in an attack. The assassination of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, leader of the moderate opposition, whose funeral will take place this afternoon, has been condemned by personalities and organizations of many countries, including Nicaragua. A Nicaraguan National Guard communique reports that four persons presumably connected with the assassination of Chamorro have been arrested.

Managua Radio Commentary

PA121805Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Managua, 12 Jan--The government announced over a national radio network today that it will not allow any more disorders and that it will use the public forces to prevent them. Reports indicated that more than 10 industrial and commercial establishments were set on fire and looted by mobs which separated from a funeral procession that was taking the body of mewsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro to the LA PRENSA newspaper offices located on Kennedy Highway, the capital's most congested thoroughfare.

The city is semi-paralyzed due to the partial closure of commerce as a result of the private sector council's call for the closure. This morning, a demonstration of construction workers peacefully marched through the capital's main streets. Their leaders have said that they will join the funeral procession which should leave the Las Palmas Catholic Church after noon.

The family of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, killed 2 days ago by persons who have already been identified, has announced that the schedule for the funeral today has been changed. Chamorro's body was taken in a closed vehicle to Las Palmas Church at 0500 this morning. The more than 300 persons who had gathered in front of the LA PRENSA newspaper offices were unaware that his body was transferred to the church.

This morning, about 1,500 persons gathered at the place where the newsman was assassinated and sang the national anthem. They then marched peacefully to the site of the wake. At the last minute, Chamorro's family decided that the funeral would begin at 2100 GMT. Violeta de Chamorro, the widow of the slain newsman, has asked the people to accompany the funeral cortege in a silent and orderly manner in order to avoid any incidents. I ask this in memory of Pedro Joaquin, the widow said in a message broadcast over Radio Corporacion.

National Guard Issues Communique

PA122042Y Managua Radio ABC in Spanish 2003 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Communique No Three issued 12 January 1978 by General headquarters of the Nicaraguan National Guard--distributed by Inter-Central American Radio Organization]

[Text] The Nicaraguan National Guard notifies the citizenry that in view of the acts of looting, vandalism and arson on the night of 11 January by groups of agitators who set fire to the installations of (Francopin), Datsun, (Cateran), (Milga), Plasmaferesis, Sovipe, (Rolter), (Llanes) Hardware Store, El Porvenir, La Perfecta, (Sancade) Shoe Store, Chevron gas station, (Coplan), Banco de Centro America branch, First National City Bank branch, Bank of America branch, (Fanita), (Rarte), customhouse and other establishments, thus (?depriving) hundreds of heads offamilies of their jobs, the police forces will maintain and safeguard public order, not permitting disorders of any kind, destruction of private property and all those actions that disrupt the peace of the citizenry. For this purpose, the authorities will take all the measures necessary in accordance with the law.

[Signed] Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar, chief of the legal and public relations office of the Nicaraguan National Guard.

Army Takes Control of Managua

PA121549Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1541 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Jan (AFP)--The Nicaraguan Army started patrolling the streets of Managua this morning and took control of the city after a very violent night of burning and looting. Infuriated groups almost devastated a 2 km stretch of the northeastern sector of the capital causing damage estimated at $6 to $7 million at least, according to unofficial sources.

WIDF REGIONAL OFFICE TO OPEN 19 JAN

FL0700467 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Fanny Edelmann, secretary general of the International Federation of Democratic Women [WIDF], will attend the inauguration of that organization's regional center for Latin America. The inauguration ceremony will take place on 19 January in Havana.

Referring to the importance of the future regional center, the first of its type, the WIDF leader noted that it will help to raise the training and knowledge of middle-level cadres of WIDF-member organizations on this continent. Three-month courses, she added, covering various matters of interest to Latin American women will be offered at the regional center.

PCC CONGRATULATES ARGENTINE COMMUNISTS ON ANNIVERSARY

FL0613007 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1219 GMT 6 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The PCC Central Committee has sent a message of congratulations to the Argentine Communist Party on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of its founding. On behalf of our people and government, the PCC Central Committee expresses its most fraternal congratulations to and recognition of the Argentine Communist Party for the years devoted to the proletariat's struggle and the cause of socialism.

BRIEFS

UJC DELEGATION LEAVES MOZAMBIQUE--The Cuban Union of Young Communists--UJC--delegation which has made an official visit to the People's Republic of Mozambique, has left Maputo following an extensive tour through several interior areas of that fraternal African country. [Text] [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Jan 78 FL]

AFRICAN CONGRESS ANNIVERSARY--A ceremony celebrating the 66th anniversary of the founding of the African National Congress [ANC] has been held in Havana hosted by the Cuban institute for Friendship with Peoples and the Cuban-African Friendship Association. (Francis Majela), the South African representative to the 11th World Youth and Student Festival International Preparatory Committee, said that his country also was brutally colonized by the imperialist powers. He went on to say that since the founding of the ANC on 8 Jan 1912 the party has been guiding the revolutionary masses in their struggle in his country. Cuban-African Friendship Association Vice President Col Gustavo (Ochui) pointed out the condemnation of the reactionary South African regime. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1503 GMT 10 Jan 78 FL]

SUGAR HARVEST NEWS--Beginning now, grinding capacity should be raised to the maximum since the 1978 sugar harvest is now at a decisive stage. By 30 April the 148 operating mills will have to process a volume of sugarcane not achieved in previous harvests. These next 120 days require a well organized and efficient agro-industrial effort. In this harvest 51 mills must operate over 150 days to grind all the sugarcane assigned to them. Therefore delays must be avoided to prevent the sugar harvest from running over into the rainy season which could cause sugarcane being left without being processed or being ground but having a lower sugar yield. The December rains caused changes in the normal grinding rate of many sugar mills in the western and central provinces and in some of the eastern provinces of the country. Soon, the number of mills in operation will be complete and the nation's sugar industry will be at full capacity. [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Jan 78 FL]

1978 FERTILIZER PRODUCTION--The greatest production of its history has been planned for this year by the fertilizer industry, it was announced in a meeting held at the Chemical Industry Ministry in Havana City. Some 1,227,000 tons of fertilizers will be manufactured by the country's 5 enterprises that produce the artificial nutrients that are so important to agriculture. The meeting was chaired by Chemical Industry Minister Antonio Esquivel, Guillermo Gomez, PCC Central Committee Basic Industries Department Chief, Ramon Cardona, chemical and energy industries workers trade union secretary general, and other leaders. During the meeting, it was also announced that the production of fertilizers in 1977 amounted to 978,000 tons, which is higher than the country's prior production record of that important raw material. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Jan 78 FL]

FESTIVAL FUNDS COLLECTED--Pinar del Rio and Matanzas Provinces have fulfilled the goals assigned to them for the collection of funds to cover expenses of the 11th World Youth and Students Festival, which amount to 2,850,000 and 3,500,000 pesos, respectively. They have become the first two provinces to attain their goals. On the occasion of this achievement, the 11th festival organizing committee has congratulated the preparatory committees of Pinar del Rio and Matanzas for the excellent work carried out. Likewise, it exhorts them to continue on that path to make a reality the fulfillment of the goal of collecting 50 million pesos it proposes to collect to help pay for the expenses of the grand meeting of the youth. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Jan 78 FL]

RAILROAD WORKERS DAY--The national event marking railroad workers' day will be held on 29 January in the city of Camaguey because Camaguey Province was the one which made the greatest efforts to fulfill the plans. The high honor of hosting such an important event is in recognition of the systematic work done by workers and all personnel of locomotive enterprises, railroad shops, communications and others. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Jan 78 FL]

CULTURE MINISTRY-ANAP PACT--Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos and Jose Ramirez Cruz, president of the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), both members of the Council of State, have signed in Havana City a cooperation plan on the most important tasks to be undertaken this year. The plan is designed to improve our peasants' capabilities in the arts and literature and in artistic activities in which all the people participate directly and actively. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Jan 78 FL]

TRIBUTE TO VANGUARDS--The national week of tribute to revolutionary armed forces Vanguards and student Vanguards of Camilo Cienfuegos pre-university vocational-military institutes will start in Havana City tomorrow and will end on 16 January. The Vanguards will be involved in a schedule of activities, including their receipt of the Vanguard distinction at a ceremony on Thursday morning, 12 January. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Jan 78 FL]

HAVANA-SANTO DOMINGO UNIVERSITIES--A cultural-scientific convention has been signed between the universities of Havana and Santo Domingo by Eustaquio Remedios and Guarocuya Batista, rectors of the respective study centers. The document calls for the exchange of professors, plans, programs and study materials, along with increasing the ties of friendship between the two institutions. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1314 GMT 10 Jan 78 FL]

JAMAICA

YUGOSLAV DELEGATION TO VISIT

FL111525Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Jan 78 p 11 FL

[Text] Georgetown, 8 Jan (CANA)--A joint delegation from the Communist League of Yugoslavia and the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia will soon visit Guyana, Jamaica and Venezuela according to a PRENSA LATINA report reaching here. The Cuban news agency report said the team left Belgrade for Venezuela, where the tour begins. The delegation leader is member of the Executive Committee of the Communist League, Munir Meshovic. The visits are reported to be in response to invitations from the three countries. Exact dates and the nature of the discussions likely to take place were not stated.

PLANS TO ESTABLISH PLO OFFICE QUESTIONED

FL111530Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 7 Jan 78 p 10 FL

["As I See It" column by Vincent Tulloch: "Potential Danger From PLO"]

[Text] In the near future the Government of Jamaica will have to make a decision on whether to grant the Palestinian Liberation Organisation permission to establish an office in Kingston. According to a news report published in the GLEANER in November, Mr. Isiam Salem, P.L.O. Latin American representative, disclosed that a request was made to the government for permission to set up an office here.

The fact that the P.L.O. already has an office in Havana and plans to establish one in Mexico City should raise some questions here. One such question is: Why the rush to set up an office in Jamaica? Another would be: Is there any more political clout to be gained with an office here? Certainly the Havana office should be able to deal with its interests in the Caribbean region.

In my opinion the request should be bluntly refused. The presence of the P.L.O. in Jamaica, could land us with more trouble than we bargained for. Before I deal with the dangers involved I will take a brief look at the P.L.O. since 1974 when it was accepted by the United Nations as the sole representative of the Palestinians. Yasir Arafat who made his "olive branch for peace and a freedom fighter's gun" appearance in 1974 before the General Assembly is still the boss.

However, not much has changed since then. Internally the bickering continues. The Lebanese civil war did put the organisation under a lot of strain. Two of its best intellectual minds fled the scene and are currently lecturing in the U.S.A. Also Syria has virtually taken over the reins of leadership thus making the present executive answerable to Damascus. President Sadat's bold peace initiative has further thrown it into total disarray, as it struggles to come up with an independent response.

Relentless Struggle

While the internal politics of the P.L.O. may not be of interest to the average Jamaican, reports about its links with certain notorious terrorist groups, notably the Baader-Meinhof gang of Germany and the Japanese Red Army, should be enough for us to shun such a group.

In any event the P.L.O. does not recognise the State of Israel. Our government does and there is an Israeli ambassador living here. For the past 30 years there has been a relentless struggle with the Israelis on one hand and the Arabs on the other over the question of the Palestinian homeland.

Without digging too much into the history of the struggle, I think it is quite fair to say that the problem is a very difficult one. It is known that a section of Jordan is thickly populated with Palestinians, so too is a section of Israel and of course there are the occupied lands.

It is safe to assume that the Jamaican Government would like to see a solution to the problem. It should by now be aware of the fact that a solution will only come when both sides are prepared to make concessions.

Apart from the political twist to the P.L.O. there is one other area which I had briefly mentioned, which is probably the greatest concern to us now. Terrorism is something which can destroy a country, and with our weak economy and low morale we cannot afford to be involved in any crossfire between any warring factions on the international level because we have more than our fair share on the local scene.

Our security force is already hard pressed in trying to bring some sanity to the society. They just cannot cope with an additional burden especially when it is imported. In any event they do not posses the type of sophisticated techniques to deal with kidnapings, blackmails, the taking of hostages and assassinations.

The presence of Cuban terrorists in Miami and their vicious terror campaign against Castro is enough warning to us. The murder of over 70 passengers in 1976 near Barbados is a clear example of what can happen to innocent bystanders caught in the middle of terror politics.

Jamaicans must be spared from such dangers. The P.L.O. must not be given a foothold here.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES CUBAN HEALTH MINISTER

FL121507Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1434 GMT 12 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley has held a private meeting with Cuban Public Health Minister Jose A. Gutierrez Muniz, who has been on an official visit to that country since last Tuesday. The high Cuban official and his delegation also met with Jamaican Public Health Minister Douglas Manley. Gutierrez Muniz and members of his delegation toured the Mona University Hospital, affiliated with West Indies University; the Kingston Public Hospital and Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital located in downtown Kingston. After they will visit hospital centers in the area of Falmouth on the northern coast and Savanna la Mar General Hospital, where a Cuban international doctors brigade is located.

JAMAICAN MISSION TO DISCUSS CARICOM

FL112010Y Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Jan 78 p 2 FL

[Text] Kingston, 5 Jan--Jamaica's private sector is putting together a mission to go to Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and St. Kitts to assure counterparts there of Jamaica's continued interest in the survival of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The eight-member mission will be composed of members of the Manufacturers Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the National Exporters Association. Initial plans call for members to meet business leaders in the three CARICOM states and convince them of the Jamaican business sectors sincerity in wanting CARICOM to survive and become a fully integrated free trade community.

Foreign exchange problems here forced government to cutback on imports, and a number of CARICOM products were affected.

One result was an outcry from manufacturers elsewhere in the Caribbean, particularly Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados and complaints about the failure of Jamaican authorities to issue licences for the importation of CARICOM goods. This was followed by pressure from some sectors of the Barbados and Trinidad governments to retaliate against Jamaica by restricting Jamaican goods. The manufacturing sector in Jamaica, as in other CARICOM countries has been built-up on the understanding that first the Caribbean Free Trade (CARIFTA) then CARICOM would ultimately lead to a truly free trade community. Business leaders in several islands are said to be generally convinced that the advantages of an extended CARICOM market cannot be found in any other arrangement. The mission is thus expected to develop closer and permanent liaison with manufacturers, distributors and exporters in the eastern Caribbean.

BRIEFS

SOYBEANS TO CUBA--One thousand metric tons of soya bean meal, representing the first part of a $3.3M-a-year deal signed between Jamaica and Cuba is being loaded on the vessel "Carl Offersen", docked at berth 1, Port Bustamante, Kingston, and is expected to leave for Havana by this weekend. The agreement was signed on August 23 last year between Jamaica Nutrition Holdings Limited (JNH) and Empresa Cubana Importadora de Alimentos (ALIMPORT) of Havana, Cuba. The deal is expected to earn about $3.3M a year in foreign exchange for the island. [Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 5 Jan 78 p 1 FL]

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

MEETING HELD FOR TOBAGO INDEPENDENCE

FL111505Y Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 1 Jan 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Scarborough, Sat--The fight for internal self-government for Tobago intensified today in Plymouth when a pole with a green, red and black flag was raised at noon by about ten men on state lands at a site adjacent to Fort James. The flag went up during a religious ceremony which was being addressed by Rep Dr Winston Murray (DAC Tobago West) and attended by a gathering of more than one thousand persons. Dr Murray said: "No man, no country, ever wins its liberty or freedom with empty words and promises. Tobago has always had a lot of empty words and promises from Trinidad, so the very first step towards our liberation is the hoisting, after 79 years, of Tobago's national flag." The proceedings began at about 9:30 A.M. on the grounds of the Plymouth recreation ground. It was a religious exercise with hymns and prayers from members of the Spiritual Baptist Church of the Bethel area.

Leftists Out

From early, plain clothes policemen and security officers were in the area, but everything was orderly.

The other Democratic Action Congress representative for Tobago, Mr A.N.R. Robinson, was not present. Last Thursday Mr Robinson held a meeting at which Dr Murray highlighted today's proceedings, but Mr Robinson rejected a statement by Dr Murray that Tobago would take help from any sympathetic country. Mr Robinson pointed out that in his Human Rights Day rally he had ruled out help from leftist nations.

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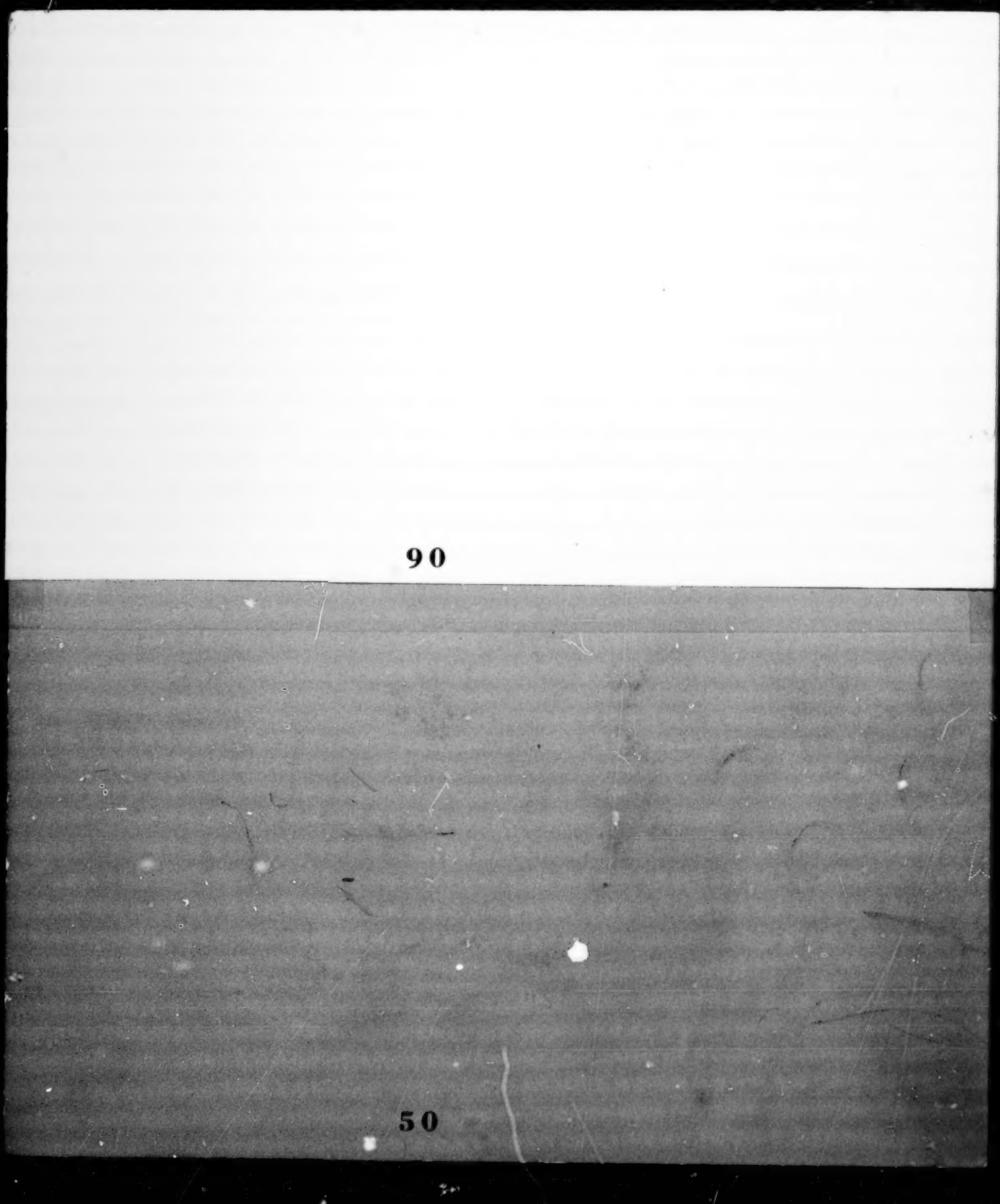
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